
**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE BOARD OF GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS
April 12, 2005**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

ISSUE #1: Should the licensing and regulation of geologists and geophysicists be continued, and should these professions be regulated by an independent board rather than by a bureau under the Department?

Recommendation #1: *The Joint Committee recommends that the geologist and geophysicist professions should continue to be regulated and that a board structure be maintained.*

Comments: The Department made no recommendation regarding the continuation of the Board of Geologist and Geophysicists and indicated instead that it is generally supportive of boards being sunsetted and their programs being incorporated into the Department, and therefore that it will not be making recommendations regarding this board and would like to further discuss this issue with the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee is, however, recommending at this time both the continued regulation and licensing of geologists and geophysicists and the continuation of the Board of Geologist and Geophysicists. Licensing of geologists and geophysicists appears to be in the public interest, and should be continued. Various other options for dealing with licensing were considered and not adopted by the Governor's Office in his California Performance Review, as well as in the Governor's Reorganization Proposal #1 (which the Governor ultimately abandoned). After much review, it appears that the current board structure of licensing is working as well as, or better than, any of the other options considered.

ISSUE #2: Should the Board change the name of "Registered Geophysicists" to "Professional Geophysicists?"

Recommendation #2: *References to "Registered Geophysicists" should be changed to "Professional Geophysicists."*

Comments: The Board notes that, while licensed Geologists are referred to in the B&P Code as "Professional," Geophysicists are called "Registered." This may be seen as suggesting a hierarchy that does not exist, since both categories of licensees have different qualifications, but neither category is in any way "preferred." The Board recommends changing the term "Registered Geophysicist" to "Professional Geophysicist."